Rural IT Centres

2962. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Rural Information Technology Centres or Samadhan Kendra in Andhra Pradesh to provide connectivity to Internet, E-mail and Computer facilities to the villagers of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more Samadhan Kendras in the State in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Information Technology (DIT) has established one Samadhan Kendra at Tadepalligudem, West Godavari District, 1095 internet dhabas have been opened in Andhra Pradesh by franchisees of BSNL out of 1104 Block Head Quarters (BHQs). However, internet access has been extended in all BHQs of AP.

A Pentium IV Computer as server with Internet and E-mail facility has been installed at this Samadhan Kendra and information on 20 villages provided as text, graphics and audio. Villagers can also access information on various health schemes, Agriculture scheme (Pest management, crop details, seed management etc.) and village self help groups. BSNL through PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) has offered one free internet connection to each of the Rural Block Headquarters through its franchisees.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Leave for Extra Departmental Staff

2963. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: